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# Investigative Summary

# Officer Involved Shooting Report

Exhibits: A- Reports under Sheriff's File # 401-14850-2174-055

B- Photographs

C- Suspect Corswell Criminal Record

D- Miscellaneous documents

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

TYPE INCIDENT: Deputy Involved Shooting

IAB FILE: 2041496

URN: 401-14850-2174-055

#### **OPENING STATEMENT**

On July 31, 2001, Deputies Adan Torres and Richard Walters were driving southbound in the 8800 block of South Central Avenue. As they passed South Central Avenue, they heard automatic weapon fire. Deputy Torres immediately drove quickly southbound on South Central Avenue, out of the "kill zone." Deputy Torres maneuvered his car into a U-turn, stopping northbound on South Central Avenue at 88th Place. As he stopped, he saw a male, Black suspect standing in an open lot at the north corner of 88th Place. The suspect was holding a AK-47 assault rifle, pointing it toward the deputies and firing at them. The suspect ran in a southeast direction, across 88th Place, stopping on the south sidewalk. The suspect again pointed the assault rifle at the deputies. Both deputies, fearing for their lives, fired their duty weapons (Berrettas) at the suspect. The suspect fled eastbound on 88th Place, then southbound through an alley.

Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Larry Gregg and Jerry Greene, along with Lieutenant Donnie Mauldin, responded to handle the Deputy Involved Shooting. Senior Criminalist Dale Higashi, Gil Trujillo and Lisa Jackson responded from the Crime Lab to handle the crime scene investigation. Deputy Brian Miller responded for the Force Training Unit. The investigation was handled by Operation Safe Streets detectives, under the supervision of Sergeant Liam Gallagher.

#### INVOLVED PERSONNEL

Torres, Adan, Deputy MH/ HT 5'08" WT 245 Right Handed

Division: Field Operations Region II, Century Station

Assignment: 216F

Date of Employment: 08/22/1994

Date Assigned to Patrol:

Date Completed Patrol Training:

Prior Shooting Incidents:

Prior Founded Force Incidents:



Walters, Richard, Deputy HT 5'11" WT 150 MW Right Handed Field Operations Region II, Century Station Division: Assignment: 216F Date of Employment: 11/08/1994 Date Assigned to Patrol: Date Completed Patrol Training: Prior Shooting Incidents: Prior Founded Force Incidents: SUSPECT/INMATE Corswell, Louis BK #6966-082 WT 200 MB/28 HT 5'10" RIGHT HANDED Criminal History: Suspect Corswell Under , Suspect Corswell WITNESSES none MW/

Century D.I.S. 2 SH #2041496



#### **INJURIES**

Neither the deputies nor suspect were injured during this incident.

### PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

- AK-47 assault rifle, serial with two ammunition clips attached, containing live rounds. See Exhibit B
- Dark blue, denim jacket, located at

  See Exhibit B
- Dark colored, hooded sweatshirt. See Exhibit B
- Rifle casings
- 9MM casings
- 1986 Buick, License (Suspect Corswell's vehicle).

#### INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS

Investigators were present on scene when the AK-47 assault rifle was located. The rifle contained a twenty round banana clip, inserted into the weapon, as well as a second twenty round clip taped to the first. This manner of carrying ammunition clips is used for quick re-loading of the weapon.

#### WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL

#### **Deputy Torres**

Service Weapon Type: Beretta 9MM, serial # BER

Type of Ammunition Used: Winchester Luger

Date Employee Last Qualified:
Date Last Trained With Weapon:

#### **Deputy Walters**

Service Weapon Type: Beretta 9MM, serial # BER

Type of Ammunition Used: Winchester Luger Date Employee Last Qualified:

Date Last Trained With Weapon:

#### WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT/INMATE

Type of Weapon Used or Suspected Used: AK-47, Serial #

Weapons Recovered: Yes
Casings Recovered: Yes
Gunshot Residue Results: N/A
Weapon Checked for Fingerprints: Yes

Results: None found at time of report

#### PROPERTY DAMAGE

- Exterior walls of apartment building located at South Central Avenue. Caused by rounds being fired by suspect. See Exhibit B
- Ford Crown Victoria, License # (bullet strike to trunk, bullet crease to passenger side). See Exhibit B
- Lincoln, License # (Bullet impact to trunk). See Exhibit B
- Chain link fence at corner of South Central Avenue and 88<sup>th</sup> Place (links bent from bullet strikes). See Exhibit B

#### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR/CHARGES FILED

Investigator's Name: Detective Velasquez, Operation Safe Streets

Court: Hill Street Court, M69 (Case # VA067714)

Charges: A187 (A) PC

Court Date: December 18, 2001

#### LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

This shooting occurred during night time conditions. The area is lighted by street lamps.

#### **EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS**

**Deputy Adan Torres** declined being interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau immediately following the shooting without a representative. His observations and actions were described in a supplemental report written by him.

Deputy Torres said he was driving his radio car, with Deputy Walters as his partner, southbound on South Central Avenue when he heard 9-10 gunshots. He immediately recognized the gunshots as coming from a high power rifle. Deputy Torres described the sound of the gunshots as so loud that he believed the person shooting was standing next to him. Deputy Torres wrote that he was overcome with a level of fear he had never felt before. Deputy Torres believed he was going to be killed.

IAB NOTE: While speaking with Deputy Torres on August 1, 2001, regarding him being interviewed, Deputy Torres stated that he actually placed himself in a near fetal position, on the front seat of the car, turning his back to the driver's side door when he heard the shots. He did this because he felt he needed to protect himself from the rounds that he knew were going to strike his car.

Deputy Torres said that after driving south a few feet, he began to look for the person shooting at him. He saw two Black males running away (southbound) from the apartment building through a tire shop parking lot. One of the males was carrying a rifle in his right hand. Deputy Torres wrote that the rifle appeared to be an AK-47 assault rifle.

Deputy Torres drove south to 88th Place. Just south of the intersection, he began to initiate a uturn to re-engage the suspects. As he was turning, he heard another volley of gunfire. He saw the muzzle flash of the gun and knew the suspect was firing at him. Deputy Torres said he again became frightened and lowered himself in the seat of his car. The two suspects ran south through the tire shop parking lot, then diagonally across 88th Place, ending up on the south sidewalk of 88th Place.

Deputy Torres positioned his vehicle on the east side of South Central Avenue, a few feet south of 88<sup>th</sup> Place. Deputy Torres positioned his car there so that he and Deputy Walters would not be in the direct line of fire from the suspects. They were able to see the suspects by looking through a chain link fence, eastward on 88<sup>th</sup> Place.

Deputy Torres quickly exited his vehicle and took cover behind the engine block. As he looked east on 88<sup>th</sup> Place, he saw the suspect carrying the rifle in both hands. Deputy Torres yelled at the suspect to stop and drop the gun. The suspect ran from north to south, passing in front of a large truck, reappearing on the south sidewalk. When he reappeared, the suspect had brought the rifle up, onto his shoulder and was beginning to raise the barrel, aiming it at the deputies. Deputy Torres felt the suspect was going to shoot him. Deputy Torres fired approximately four rounds from his Beretta. The suspect did not change his position and continued aiming at the deputies. Deputy Torres fired an additional 3-4 rounds at the suspect, waited, and fired a third volley of 3-4 rounds. The suspect then ran away, eastbound on 88<sup>th</sup> Place.

Deputy Torres looked over to Deputy Walters and saw that he had moved to the southwest corner of a building approximately 40 feet south of their radio car. Deputy Walters was broadcasting, via his radio that they were involved in a shooting. Deputy Torres ensured that Deputy Walters had broadcast that the suspect was armed with an AK-47.

Deputy Torres looked toward the apartment building and saw people laying on the ground and others were yelling. Deputy Torres told Deputy Walters that he believed someone had been shot. Deputy Walters then requested Paramedics. Deputy Torres then moved to where Deputy Walters had positioned himself at the northwest wall of a building on South Central Avenue. The two deputies then awaited back-up units to arrive.

**Deputy Richard Walters** declined being interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau immediately following the shooting without a representative. His observations and actions were described in a supplemental report written by him.

Deputy Walters stated that he was the bookman as he and Deputy Torres drove southbound past South Central Avenue. Deputy Walters heard 10-12 gunshots. He described them as large caliber. Deputy Walters said his body immediately tensed and he expected to feel the impact of rounds against the radio car and his body.

Deputy Walters yelled to Deputy Torres to "Go! Go!" Deputy Torres immediately drove quickly, southbound Central Avenue to 88<sup>th</sup> Place. Deputy Walters heard 4-6 additional rounds being fired and Deputy Torres yelled that the suspects were shooting at them.

Deputy Torres made a u-turn, stopping at the southeast corner of South Central Avenue and 88<sup>th</sup> Place, facing northbound.

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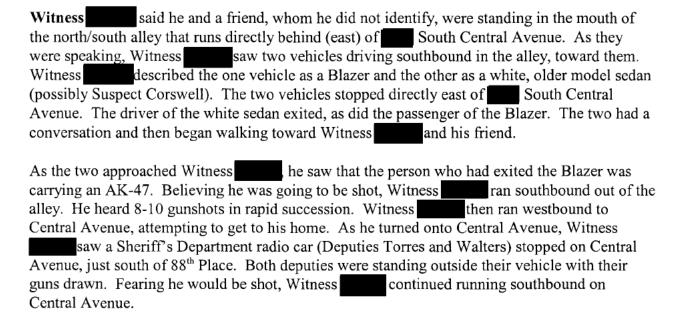
Deputy Walters saw a Black male running eastbound on the north sidewalk of 88<sup>th</sup> Place. This male was carrying an assault rifle. Deputy Walters began exiting the radio car while broadcasting to units that he and Deputy Torres needed assistance. The suspect ran in a southeast direction across 88<sup>th</sup> Place, reaching the south sidewalk. The suspect stopped, looked at the deputies and raised the rifle in the direction of the deputies. Deputy Walters estimated that the suspect was 30-35 yards away from him and Deputy Torres.

As the suspect raised the rifle, Deputy Walters wrote that he felt a wave of fear envelope his body. He feared that the suspect would kill him or Deputy Torres. Deputy Walters stopped transmitting on the radio and fired 2-3 rounds from his Beretta. Deputy Walters said he was standing in the passenger door jamb when he fired. The suspect did not lower the rifle, but was now pointing the barrel of the gun directly at he and Deputy Torres.

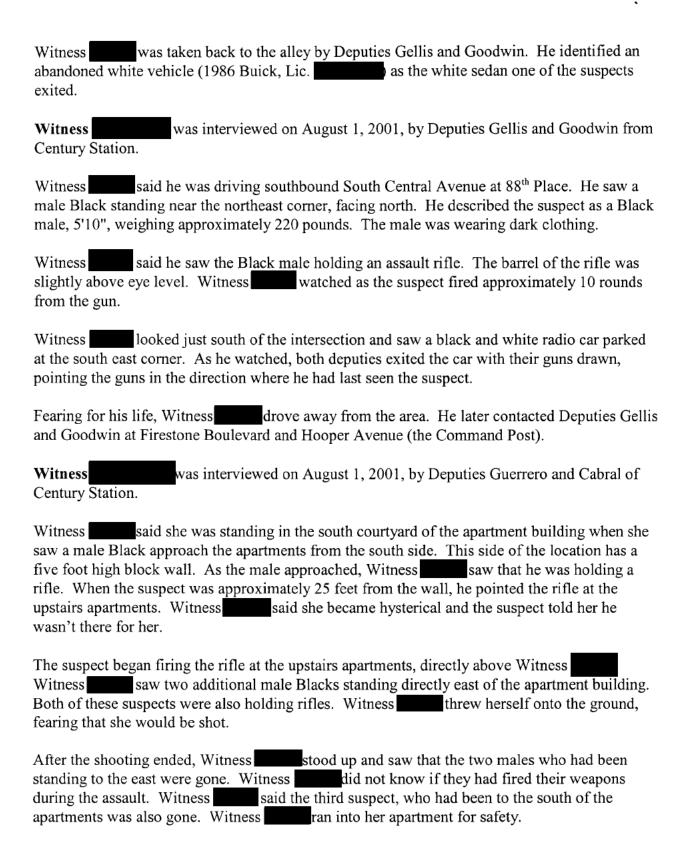
Deputy Walters looked to his south and saw a building (approximately 50 feet to the south). He felt the building would provide better cover/concealment than the car door. While moving toward the wall, Deputy Walters fired an additional 3-5 rounds from his Beretta. The suspect ran eastbound on 88<sup>th</sup> Place and Deputy Walters lost sight of him.

Deputy Walters saw that Deputy Torres had taken cover behind the engine block of their vehicle. The two conversed and Deputy Walters advised, via his Sheriff's radio, that they had been involved in a shooting. Deputy Walters believed people had been injured at the apartment building, so; additionally, requested paramedics.

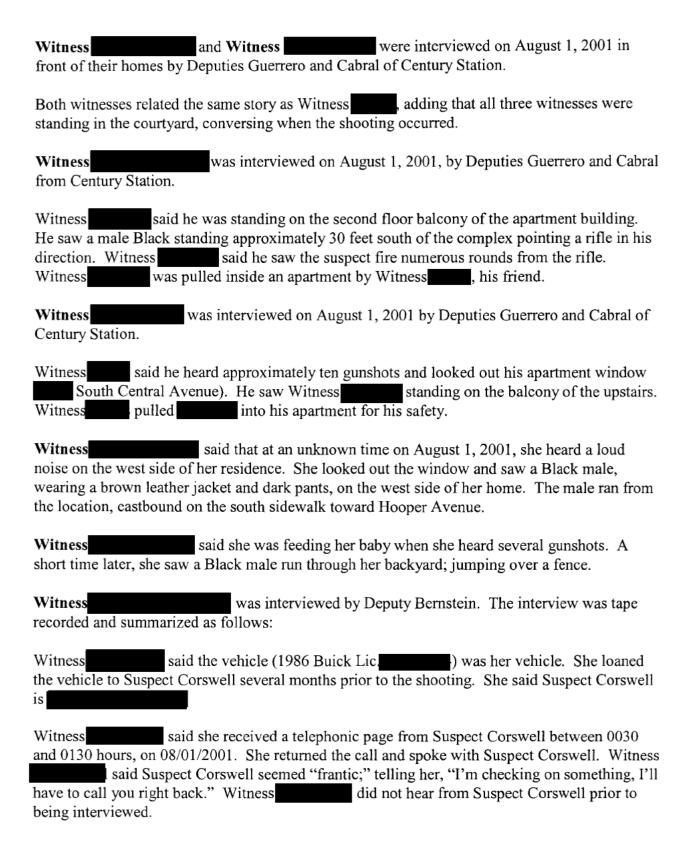
#### **WITNESS STATEMENTS**



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#### SUSPECT/INMATE STATEMENTS

Suspect Louis Corswell was spoken to on the phone by Detective Velasquez on August 1, 2001. During that conversation, Suspect Corswell said he was in Moreno Valley when the shooting occurred.

Suspect Corswell was again interviewed on August 2, 2001, by Detective Duncan. Suspect Corswell had come to Century Station to speak with Deputy Duncan regarding his girlfriend's car (1986 Buick Lic. This interview was tape recorded and kept at the Century Sheriff's Station.

Suspect Corswell said he drove to the alley behind South Central Avenue to buy marijuana. He parked in the alley, retrieved \$5.00 from his wallet and left his car, leaving his wallet on the seat. He began walking toward a Black male and a Black female when he heard gunshots and became frightened. As he ran north through the alley, he heard a second volley of gunshots.

When Suspect Corswell arrived at Firestone Boulevard he called his brother and told him that someone had shot at him. He then called the registered owner of the car he was driving, He told her that something had happened to her car and he would call her back.

Suspect Corswell could not remember if any other cars were parked in the alley when the shooting occurred. He said he tried to return to the vehicle, but the streets were blocked by the police.

Suspect Corswell said he had lied when he told Detective Velasquez he was in the Moreno Valley.

At the conclusion of this interview, Suspect Corswell was arrested.

Suspect Corswell was again interviewed on August 9, 2001, by Detective Velasquez at the Twin Towers Custody Facility. The interview was tape recorded and summarized as follows. A transcription of the interview is included with the police reports.

At the onset of the interview, Suspect Corswell asked that the tape recorder not be turned on "yet." Suspect Corswell asked what questions he was about to be asked. Deputy Velasquez gave a brief overview of the questions. While giving Detective Velasquez the outline, Suspect Corswell began to speak about the incident. Suspect Corswell said he had met three friends at a liquor store in the area. He refused to state his friend's names for fear of retaliation (he eventually told Detective Velasquez their names were "Virgil", "Pee Wee" and "Woody"). One of his friends had told him that he, the friend, had been disrespected by a member of the "Florencia" street gang. This friend told him that he was going to do some pay back. Suspect Corswell agreed to assist in the pay back.

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Suspect Corswell drove to the north/south alley behind (east of South Central Avenue. He was followed by his friends in a black SUV. Suspect Corswell was instructed to stay in the alley and act as a look out for the police. As the shooting began, Suspect Corswell saw a black and white radio car driving south on South Central Avenue. Not wanting to get caught, Suspect Corswell ran south through the alley. Suspect Corswell said he was scared and left his vehicle, with his identification in the alley.

Suspect Corswell refused to tell Detective Velasquez what his three friends had done during the incident. He did state that "Virgil" was the friend who had been disrespected. Suspect Corswell said he went along with the plan for pay back because if he didn't "Virgil" would not hesitate to shoot him.

When the tape recorder was turned on, Suspect Corswell recanted his earlier statement. He returned to the statement of buying marijuana when he was approached by three Black males.

At the conclusion of the interview, Detective Velasquez asked Suspect Corswell looked through several photographs. Suspect Corswell identified three individuals as being the friends who wanted payback.

Suspect Corswell said "Woody" had the assault rifle during the shooting, "Pee Wee" had a 9mm handgun and he, Suspect Corswell, had a smaller semi automatic handgun. He and "Pee Wee" were to ensure that none of the intended victims ran east into the alley. When the shooting began, a woman began running toward them, he and "Pee Wee" became frightened, jumped over a fence and ran from the area.

At the conclusion of this non-taped portion of the interview, Suspect Corswell said he changed his story so many times because it didn't matter what he said, he was going to be charged with being an accessory to attempted murder anyway.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Deputy Torres was able to positively identify Suspect Corswell after viewing several photo lineups. Deputy Walters was unable to positively identify the suspect.

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# Los <u>ngeles County Sheriff's De artment</u> Officer Involved Shooting

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# Officer Involved Shooting

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# Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

URN: 001-14850-2174-055

3\_of\_8 Page **Involved Employee** Last Name First Name M.I. Employee # E 1 Adan Torres Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): Unit Assignment: Sex: Rank Deputy Century Station ShiftTime (circle only one): ShiftType (circle only one) Substance Used: Intoxication/Drug Usage? PM Regular Overtime Off Duty Coroner Case # Hospital Name: Hospital Admission? Coroner Case? Interviewed? Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: Duty Time (hrs): Other Factors: Clothing (circle only one): 6 hours Plain Clothes no Vest Raid Jacket w/ Vest Age: Height: Weight: Plain Clothes w/ Vest Uniform no Vest Uniform w/ Vest 5'08" 245 Raid Jacket no Vest Range Qualification Date: PPC Qualification Date: Laser Training Date: Certification Unit Number of Prior Shootings Certified with Weapon Used? Patrol Certification? Prior Shootings? Field Training Officer Emp # Last Name First Name M.I. First Name Field Training Officer Emp# Last Name M.i. M.I. First Name Employee # E 2 Walters Richard G Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): Unit Assignment: Sex: Race: Rank Deputy Century Station ShiftTime (circle only one): ShiftType (circle only one): Substance Used: Intoxication/Drug Usage? РМ Regular Overtime Off Duty Coroner Case # Hospital Name: Hospital Admission? Coroner Case? Interviewed? Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: Duty Time (hrs): Other Factors: Clothing (circle only one): 5 Hours Plain Clothes no Vest Raid Jacket w/ Vest Plain Clothes w/ Vest Age: Height Weight: Uniform no Vest Uniform w/ Vest 5'11" 155 Raid Jacket no Vest Range Qualification Date: PPC Qualification Date: Laser Training Date: Number of Prior Shootings: Certification Unit Certified with Weapon Used? Patrol Certification? Prior Shootings Field Training Officer Emp # M.L Last Name First Name Field Training Officer Emp # Last Name M.I. Last Name M.I. Employee # Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): Unit Assignment: Sex: Race: Rank ShiftTime (circle only one): ShiftType (circle only one): Substance Used: Intoxication/Drug Usage? РМ Regular Overtime Off Duty Coroner Case # Hospital Name: Hospital Admission? Interviewed? Coroner Case? Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: Duty Time (hrs): Clothing (circle only one): Other Factors: Plain Clothes no Vest Raid Jacket w/ Vest Age: Height: Weight: Plain Clothes w/ Vest Uniform no Vest Uniform w/ Vest Raid Jacket no Vest Range Qualification Date: PPC Qualification Date: Laser Training Date: Certification Unit: Number of Prior Shootings: Certified with Weapon Used? Patrol Certification? Prior Shootings? M.I. Field Training Officer Emp # Last Name First Name

See Other Side

First Name

M.L

Field Training Officer Emp #

SH-R-438A rev. 3/97

Last Name

# Officer Involved Shootin Suspect Information

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**Suspect Information** Last Name Corswell First Name Louis M.I. AKA Last Name First Name Nutty/Bones te & Zip Street Address: City Black Work Phone: Home Phone: Social Security #: Driver's License\_# none none D.O.B. 11/28/1972 FBI# CII# Height: 5'10" Weight: 200 Booking # Primary Charge: Secondary Charge: 6966-082 A 187(A) PC Coroner Case # Substance Used: Coroner Case? Intoxication/Drug Usage? Armed? Apprehended? Mental Illness? Criminal History? Vehicle Make Model: 1986 Buick Sedan Last Name First Name M.I. **AKA** Last Name First Name M.I. Street Address: State & Zip Code: Sex: Race City Home Phone: Social Security #: Work Phone: Driver's License #: D.O.B. Weight: FBI# Age: Height: CII# Booking # Primary Charge: Secondary Charge: Coroner Case # Substance Used: Coroner Case? Intoxication/Drug Usage? Armed? Apprehended? Mental Iliness? Criminal History? Vehicle Make Model. Last Name First Name MΙ AKA Last Name First Name M.I. Race Street Address: State & Zip Code: City Home Phone: Social Security #: Work Phone: Driver's License #: D.O.B. Age: Height: Weight: FBI# CII# Booking # Primary Charge: Secondary Charge: Coroner Case # Substance Used: Coroner Case? Intoxication/Drug Usage? Armed? Apprehended? Mental Illness? Criminal History? Vehicle Make Model: Year: Last Name First Name s AKA Last Name First Name Street Address: State & Zip Code: Sex: Race City Home Phone: Social Security #: Work Phone: Driver's License #: D.O.B. Weight: FBI# Age: Height: Booking # Primary Charge: Secondary Charge: Coroner Case # Substance Used: Coroner Case? Intoxication/Drug Usage? Armed? Mental Illness? Apprehended? Criminal History? Vehicle Make Model:

#### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT~

DATE:

February 12, 2002

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FILE:

FROM:

RICHARD L. CASTRO, COMMANDER

TRAINING DIVISION

TO: ERIC B. SMITH, CAPTAIN

**CENTURY STATION** 

SUBJECT:

**EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS** 

**NON-HIT SHOOTING, JULY 31, 2001, REVIEW #2041496** 

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of the review committee's findings and recommendations concerning the use of force incident which occurred on July 31, 2001.

The Committee met on February 11, 2002, and consisted of myself, Commander Patrick Mallon (Commander of the Department) and Commander David Betkey (Commander of the Department). The Committee determined that the use of force by Deputies Adan Torres and Richard Walters was within Department policy. Please advise the deputies of this finding.

The Committee further directed the Unit Commander commend the Deputies for their performance in this incident.

RLC:KRK:kk